

Washington, DC -- By a wide bi-partisan majority yesterday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation sponsored by U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) to rename the Waterville Post Office in honor of Corporal John P. Sigsbee who was killed in Iraq this year.

“It was with both incredible pride and sadness that I sponsored this bill to pay tribute to the life and sacrifices of one of this nation’s most valiant fallen soldiers, U.S. Army Corporal John Sigsbee,” **Arcuri said**. “John was wounded once, but because of his unwavering patriotism and love of his country he went back into the field. In John’s mind, there was no question that his place was back with his fellow troops in Iraq to fulfill his responsibilities as an American soldier. John truly gave all that he had to give for our country. The sacrifice of this young man, and his family, must be remembered and honored.”

On January 16th, 2008, Corporal Sigsbee of Waterville, New York was killed in action 50 miles north of Baghdad during his second tour of duty in Iraq. Corporal Sigsbee was 21 years old.

John Sigsbee graduated from Waterville Central School in 2004 and attended Mohawk Valley Community College. Upon completing his first year of college, John decided to join the U.S. Army to further finance his higher education and became wounded one month to the day during his first tour of Iraq.

John was sent home to recover at the Brooke Army Medical Center, where he was visited by Army personnel who awarded him for his bravery. These officers told John that he needed time to heal properly from the burns he suffered when his tank drove over two IEDs, and that he needed time to consider his decision to return to service. However, John replied, with his mother by his side, “Give me one year and I’ll be back.”

Corporal Sigsbee valiantly served as a member of the 32nd Calvary Unit in the 101st Airborne Division. His family will receive his second Military Purple Heart Award on his behalf.

“Corporal Sigsbee paid the ultimate price for our safety and freedom,” **Arcuri continued**. “The renaming of this post office will forever symbolize to the Village of Waterville and to future generations the deep appreciation we owe for this man’s life and contributions, and for the

actions of each and every member of our Armed Services.”

H.R. 5975, sponsored by Arcuri, would rename the post office in Waterville, New York in memory of Corporal John P. Sigsbee. Arcuri is working with Senator Clinton on companion legislation in the Senate.

In addition to this important step to honor the memory of a local soldier, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed, with Arcuri’s strong support, legislation for all veterans and service members including:

- The largest increase for veterans’ health care in the Veterans Administration’s 77-year history, adding more than 1,800 new caseworkers to reduce the backlog of benefits claims.
- A new GI Bill to restore full, four-year college education to veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Right now, veterans’ education benefits cover only about 70 percent of the cost of a public-school education and 30 percent of a private institution.
- The Wounded Warriors Assistance Act (H.R. 1538) provides the staffing, training, and oversight necessary to ensure that our wounded warriors receive the quality care they deserve.
- The Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act (H.R. 3997) makes permanent tax provisions to relieve economic hardships for military families.

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